

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A steam jet drum washing machine comprising:
a casing;
a tub disposed in a the casing and adapted so that ~~wash~~-water is supplied into the tub;
a drum rotatably mounted in the tub for rotation about a generally horizontal axis and adapted so that clothes are put in the drum and the ~~wash~~-water is supplied into the drum;
~~a water supply unit disposed at one side of the tub for supplying the wash water into the tub; and~~
a steam generator for heating the ~~wash~~-water to generate ~~high temperature~~-steam and supplying the generated ~~high temperature~~-steam into at least one of the tub and the drum; ~~and~~
a water-supply unit that supplies the water into the tub and the steam generator, the steam generator comprising:
[[~~-~~]]~~an airtight~~ container connected to the water-supply unit for storing the ~~wash~~-water;
[[~~-~~]]a heater mounted in the container for heating the ~~wash~~-water stored in the container; and
[[~~-~~]]~~an inlet valve disposed between the water supply unit and the container for supplying the wash water into the container; and~~
[[~~-~~]]~~an outlet tube having the upper end disposed in the upper part of the container and the lower end disposed outside the container for guiding supplying the generated steam into the steam tube~~the at least one of the tub and the drum.

2. (Currently Amended) The machine as set forth in claim 1, wherein the water-supply unit comprises:
a water-supply valve assembly disposed at one end of the casing for supplying the ~~wash~~ water;
a water-supply tube having one end connected to the water-supply valve assembly and the other end connected to the container for supplying the ~~wash~~-water into the container; and

a steam tube having one end connected to the outlet tube and the other end disposed in at least one of the tub and the drum for supplying the steam into the at least one of the tub and the drum.

3. (Currently Amended) The machine as set forth in claim 1, wherein the water-supply unit comprises:

a water-supply valve assembly disposed at one end of the casing for supplying the wash water;

a detergent box assembly mounted between the water-supply valve assembly and the tub for storing a detergent;

a water-supply tube connected between the water-supply valve assembly and the container;

an auxiliary water-supply tube connected between the water-supply valve assembly and the detergent box assembly; and

a steam tube having one end connected to the outlet tube and the other end disposed in at least one of the tub and the drum for supplying the steam into the at least one of the tub and the drum.

4. (Currently Amended) The machine as set forth in claim 2, further comprising a gasket located between the tub and the casing and wherein the end of the steam tube disposed in the tub and the drum penetrates through the upper end of a the gasket for preventing leakage of water between the tub and the casing.

5. (Canceled).

6. (Currently Amended) The machine as set forth in ~~claim 5~~claim 18, wherein ~~the an~~ upper end of the outlet tube is disposed inside the steam storing space.

7. (Original) The machine as set forth in claim 6, wherein the outlet tube is formed in the shape of a straight cylindrical pipe.

8. (Currently Amended) The machine as set forth in claim 1, wherein the heater is horizontally disposed in the lower part of the container so that the heater can be submerged under the wash-water even when the wash-water is supplied into the container to ~~the~~a minimum water level.

9. (Original) The machine as set forth in claim 8, wherein the heater is an electric heater formed in the shape of a curved pipe so that the heating surface area is increased.

10. (Currently Amended) The machine as set forth in ~~claim 1~~claim 42, wherein the inlet valve is a solenoid valve.

11. (Original) The machine as set forth in claim 1, wherein the steam generator further comprises a temperature sensor for sensing the temperature inside the container to control the operation of the heater on the basis of the temperature inside the container.

12. (Original) The machine as set forth in claim 1, wherein the steam generator further comprises a blowing fan mounted in the outlet tube or the steam tube for blowing the steam into the tub and the drum.

13. (Original) The machine as set forth in claim 5, wherein the steam generator further comprises a wash-water flow restraining unit mounted in the container for restraining flow of the wash water stored in the container to maintain uniform water level in the container.

14. (Original) The machine as set forth in claim 13, wherein the wash-water flow restraining unit comprises:

a first partition downwardly extended from the top of the container around the steam storing space; and

a second partition upwardly extended from the bottom of the container around the first partition.

15. (Currently Amended) The machine as set forth in claim 14, wherein the first and second partitions are provided at the lower parts thereof with through-holes, respectively, for permitting flow of the wash-water flowing between the tub and the drum through the through-holes.

16. (Original) The machine as set forth in claim 1, wherein the steam generator is disposed above the tub between the tub and the casing.

17. (Original) The machine as set forth in claim 1, wherein the steam generator is disposed below the tub between the tub and the casing.

18. (New) The machine as set forth in claim 1, wherein the steam generator further comprises a steam storing space which includes an upwardly protruded portion of the upper part of the container for storing the generated steam.

19. (New) A steam jet drum washing machine comprising:
a casing;
a tub disposed in the casing and adapted so that water is supplied into the tub;
a drum rotatably mounted in the tub and adapted so that clothes are put in the drum and the water is supplied into the drum;
a steam generator for heating water to generate steam and supplying the steam into at least one of the tub and the drum, a top wall of the steam generator comprises a first portion extending above a second portion to form a steam storing space to store the generated steam; and
a water-supply unit that supplies the water into the tub and the steam generator.

20. (New) The machine as set forth in claim 19, wherein the first portion is an upwardly protruded portion of the upper part of the steam generator.

21. (New) The machine as set forth claim 20, wherein the first portion extends in a first plane and the second portion extends in a second plane above the first portion.

22. (New) The machine as set forth claim 20, wherein the upper portion includes a pair of inclined sidewalls.

23. (New) The machine as set forth claim 19, wherein the drum is rotatably mounted for rotation about a generally horizontal axis in the tub.

24. (New) The machine as set forth in claim 19, wherein the water-supply unit comprises a steam tube having one end connected to the steam generator and the other end communicated with the inside of at least one of the tub and the drum for supplying the steam into the at least one of the tub and the drum.

25. (New) The machine as set forth in claim 24, further comprising a gasket located between the tub and the casing and wherein the end of the steam tube communicated with the inside of the at least one of the tub and the drum penetrates through the upper end of the gasket.

26. (New) The machine as set forth in claim 24, wherein the end of the steam tube is formed in the shape of a nozzle for spraying the steam into the at least one of the tub and the drum.

27. (New) The machine as set forth in claim 24, wherein the end of the steam tube is disposed in at least one of the tub and the drum.

28. (New) The machine as set forth in claim 19, wherein the steam generator is disposed below the tub between the tub and the casing.

29. (New) The machine as set forth in claim 19, wherein the steam generator is disposed above the tub between the tub and the casing.

30. (New) The machine as set forth in claim 19, wherein the water-supply unit is disposed in the casing.

31. (New) The machine as set forth in claim 19, wherein the steam generator comprises:
a container having an inner space defined therein for storing water; and
a heater mounted in the container for heating the water in the container.

32. (New) The machine as set forth in claim 31, wherein the container comprises:
an upper container part forming an upper part of the container; and
a lower container part forming a lower part of the container.

33. (New) The machine as set forth in claim 32, wherein the upper container is provided with the steam storing space.

34. (New) The machine as set forth in claim 32, wherein the steam storing space is an upwardly protruded portion of the upper container part for storing the steam.

35. (New) The machine as set forth in claim 19, wherein the steam generator further comprises an outlet tube having an upper end disposed in the steam storing space.

36. (New) The machine as set forth in claim 35, wherein the steam generator further comprises a wash-water flow restraining unit mounted in the container for restraining the wash water from flowing toward the upper end of the outlet tube.

37. (New) The machine as set forth in claim 36, wherein the wash-water flow restraining unit comprises a first partition downwardly extended from the top of the upper container part around the steam storing space.

38. (New) The machine as set forth in claim 32, wherein the upper container part and the lower container part are attached to each other by means of bolts.

39. (New) The machine as set forth in claim 19, wherein the steam generator further comprises an outlet tube connected directly with the steam storing space.

40. (New) A steam jet drum washing machine comprising:
a casing;
a tub disposed in the casing and adapted so that water is supplied into the tub;
a drum rotatably mounted in the tub and adapted so that clothes are put in the drum and the water is supplied into the drum;
a steam generator for heating water to generate steam and supplying the steam into at least one of the tub and the drum, the steam generator having a steam storage space and water receiving space; and
a water-supply unit that supplies the water into the tub and the steam generator, the water-supply unit including a steam tube having one end connected to the steam generator and the other end communicated with the inside of at least one of the tub and the drum for supplying the steam into the at least one of the tub and the drum, the one end of the steam tube extending through the water receiving space and into the steam storage space.

41. (New) The machine of claim 40, wherein the steam generator has a top wall comprising a first portion extending above a second portion to form the steam storing space, and the one end of the steam tube is located between the first portion and the second portion.

42. (New) The machine of claim 1, wherein the steam generator includes an inlet valve disposed between the water-supply unit and the container for supplying the water into the container.